THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Five Indian nationals were killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the fighting between Government Forces and the Somali National Movement fighters in June, 1988.

(c) In cooperation with the local administration and the UNDP, the Indian Embassy arranged for the evacuation of Indian national from Hargeisa. They were flown to Mogadiscio and have been accommodated with families living there. According to our information there are now no Indian nationals in Hargeisa except for one teacher who has opted to stay on there.

Commissioning of Betwa Dam Project

1185. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissioning of inter-State Betwa Dam Project on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has been delayed by six years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for early commissioning of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main reasons are constraint in availability of funds which are to be contributed by the two participating States and shortage of personnel which are to be drawn from the two State Governments. Both the State Governments have been pursuaded to contribute the funds and also depute personnel to the Board.

Purchase of Weapons by Shri Lanka from Pakistan

1186. SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 13th June, 1988 that Sri Lanka is proposing to purchase heavy weaponry items worth about dollar 150 million from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no specific information on the accuracy of this press report. However, Government are aware that Sri Lanka has been acquiring military supplies as well as military training facilities from several sources, including Pakistan. Government have been monitoring such developments closely in the context of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Finalisation of Vamshadhara Project Phase-II

1187. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI Y. SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to convene the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to finalise the Vamshadhara Project Phase-II;